THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (f) The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, is an Institution set up by the Ministry of Defence for producing medical graduates for enrolment into the Medical Corps of the Indian Armed Forces. The AFMC is affiliated to the Pune University. It has presently a total strength of 553 Medical Cadets of which 489 are boys and 64 girls. 7 boys and 2 girls are from friendly foreign countries.

In March, 1992, 15 Cadets of the AFMC final year were held back (detained) from appearing in the University examination on account of their not fulfilling the minimum attendance in classes prescribed by the Pune University.

On 4-6-1992, Shri Hitesh Ranjan, who was one of the detained final year Cadets, was admitted in the Command Hospital Pune for Acute Alcoholic Intoxication. He absconded from the hospital on 8-6-1992 and was found dead by the local Police near Lonawala on 9-6-1992. According to the Police report, Shri Ranjan had committed suicide, probably by consuming a pesticide. According to the post-mortem report, the probable cause of death of this Cadet was shock resulting from poisoning.

The Cadets made an issue of the suicide of Shri Ranjan, claiming that this was as a result of his detention. The official condolence meeting held by the College authorities on 11-6-1992 was boycotted by them. The hostel premises were also found plastered with provocative and derogatory posters. The Cadets did not take their meals in the mess from 12th June, 1992, in spite of the Faculty Members and the Dean requesting them to do so. The Cadets also absented themselves from classes on 13-6-1992, in spite of repeated pursuation by the College authorities that the Cadets discuss their grievances to arrive at an amicable settlement. The Cadets avoided any formal contact with the College authorities and took out a procession on the main streets of Pune carrying placards.

In view of the collective indiscipline, the College authorities decided, on 14-6-92, to close the Institution indefinitely and have the hostels evacuated.

An investigation has been ordered to determine the circumstances that led to the indefinite closure of the college, with effect from 15-6-92. Personal letters have been issued by the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services to the parents/guardians of the Cadets explaining the seriousness of the matter and requesting their cooperation in ensuring discipline and orderliness among the cadets. Appropriate corrective measures will be enforced by the concerned authorities, on receipt of the investigation report.

Clearance given to Deep Sea Fishing Projects

*68. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared many major projects to deep sea fishing potential in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the approximate amount of investment involved in those projects ;

(d) whether such projects are also likely to involve any foreign investment ;

(e) if so, to what extent ; and

(f) the places where such projects are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The details are given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIV, Annexure No. 8].

Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer Aircrafts

*69. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :